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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 047763-5517-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Roger READ, *et al.*)
Application No.: 09/673,305) Group Art Unit: 1625
Filed: March 19, 2001) Examiner: Robinson, Binta M.
For: PRODUCTION OF FURANONES)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

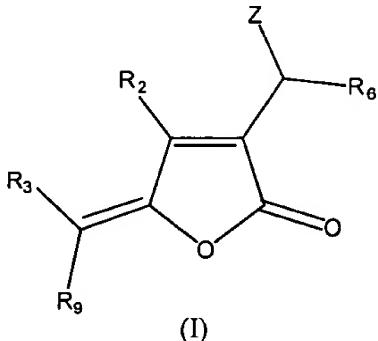
AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

In response to the non-final Office Action dated March 25, 2003, Applicants request reconsideration of this application in view of the following amendment and remarks.

AMENDMENT

Please amend claims 1, 2 and 6 as follows:

1. (thrice amended) A compound according to formula (I):



wherein R₆ is H, OH, alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl;

R₂ and R₃ are independently or both H or halogen;

R₉ is halogen;

Z is independently selected from R₆, halogen, OC(O)R₆, =O, amine, azide, thiol,